

B O R O U G H O F E C C L E S .

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1942.

J. E. SPENCE, M.B., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

During the year 73 cases of diphtheria occurred, compared with 113 cases in the preceeding year. 10 diphtheria carriers were also discovered during the year.

41 of the cases occurred among school children, 8 cases among children under school age, and 24 among adolescents and adults. The largest number of cases which occurred in a school during the year was 15, but these were spread over the whole year and there was no evidence of epidemic spread of the disease.

Scarlet Fever.

There was an increase in the number of notifications of scarlet fever during the year. During the first quarter 19 cases were notified, in the second 23, in the third 30, and in the last quarter 41, making a total of 113 cases. All of the cases were mild, and the majority were treated at home. Three carriers of scarlet fever were discovered, all of whom have been treated and arrangements made for the removal of their tonsils and adenoids. One of these carriers was a member of a family of 12. Between March and July, 8 of the children in this family contracted scarlet fever. As soon as the carrier was discovered and treated there were no further cases in the family.

Measles.

There was a sharp outbreak of measles during the summer of 1942. The number of cases notified in the four quarters of the year were 5, 122, 325, 84, a total of 536 cases for the year. The epidemic reached its maximum in July, when 202 cases were notified.

German Measles.

During the year 71 cases of german measles were notified. Of these, 55 cases, equivalent to 77.5% of all cases notified, occurred in the practice of one doctor; 4 of the cases were in infants under 6 months of age.

Whooping Cough.

85 cases of whooping cough were notified during the year. The cases occurred throughout the year, but there was no epidemic spread. 34 of the cases occurred during the first three months.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

14 cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum were notified, all of which were mild and made a complete recovery without permanent damage to the eye.

Immunisation.

During the year steady propaganda has been maintained by posters, leaflets, cinema slides and advertisements in the local press to encourage parents to have their children immunised against diphtheria, and it is satisfactory to be able to report that the response has been good. All the schools in the Borough have been visited during the year for the purpose

of immunising children of school age, while arrangements at the Infant Welfare Centre for the immunisation of children under school age at all the sessions have been continued. In addition a special immunisation clinic has been established on Wednesday morning each week for both school children and children under school age.

During the year 713 children under five years and 1202 children over five years were immunised. At the end of the year 1089 children under the age of five years and 3304 children aged 5 to 15 years have been immunised, equivalent to 39.2 and 67.8 per cent respectively of the children in these age groups. Immunisation against diphtheria is not usually carried out until the child is a year old, and it would be much better to express the proportion of younger children immunised as a percentage of children aged one to five years. The percentage of children one to five years who have been immunised is 49 per cent.

At the beginning of last year arrangements were made to immunise young children over the age of six months against Whooping Cough. The treatment consists of four injections, the first three being given at weekly intervals and the fourth a month later. During the year 337 children were immunised against Whooping Cough at the Welfare Centre.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year 143 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs Act. 13 of the samples were found to be not genuine. 105 of the samples were of milk, 68 of which were formal samples, while 32 samples of pasteurised milk were taken informally. 11 of the formal samples of milk were found to be not genuine. 43 samples were of other commodities, of which 3 were found to be not genuine.

Samples Nos. 330 and 347 were informal samples taken from the bottling plant at a dairy, and showed the presence of extraneous water by the Hortvet Test to the extent of 4.1 per cent, and 2.8 per cent respectively. Samples Nos. 331, 335 and 357 were included in two series of samples taken to trace the origin of the extraneous water in samples Nos. 330 and 347. These samples showed the presence of extraneous water to the extent of 6.0 per cent, 1.5 per cent, and 1.3 per cent respectively. From these series of samples it was found that the incoming milk was of good quality and that small amounts of water gained access to the milk during its passage through the plant. The attention of the manager and makers of the plant was drawn to the unsatisfactory samples, and the plant was overhauled and more careful supervision given to its operation. Sample No. 373 was from the same plant, and was found to contain 1.2 per cent of extraneous water due to the same cause.

Sample No. 404 was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 3.3 per cent. A letter of caution was sent to the producer and the retailer.

Sample No. 498 was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 6.6 per cent. A sample taken on delivery to the retailer was found to be genuine, although the fat content was just above the legal limit. The deficiency was probably due to unsatisfactory mixing of the milk, and a letter was sent to the retailer cautioning him.

Sample No.468 taken from a retailer was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 11.6 per cent. A further sample, No.469, which was taken on delivery to the retailer, was found to be deficient in fat to the extent of 1.6 per cent. An "appeal to the cow" sample was found to be poor in both fat and solids not fat, although the freezing point was normal. The poor quality of the sample was due to some of the cows not being stripped out, their calves being allowed to suckle them, thereby depriving the milk sent to the dairy of the strippings, the portion of the milk richest in fat. A letter was sent to the farmer informing him that the practice of allowing the cattle to be suckled by their calves must be discontinued.

Sample No.445 was an informal sample of coffee which was found to contain 2 per cent of chicory. Sample No.451 was a formal sample of the same coffee which also contained 2 per cent of chicory. Sample No.456 was an informal sample taken from a container as supplied by the wholesaler which also contained 2 per cent of chicory. The wholesalers were written to and representatives of the firm interviewed. They were unable to account for the presence of the small amount of chicory. As the amount of chicory was small and the adulteration was obviously accidental, the offer of the firm to withdraw from sale the whole consignment amounting to 2000 lbs. was accepted, and this undertaking was carried out.

26 samples of pasteurised milk were submitted for examination by the phosphatase test. 24 were certified to be correctly pasteurised, but two samples were certified to be not properly pasteurised.

110 samples, including samples of milk, jam, fruit crush, pepper, butter and margarine were examined for the presence of preservatives. Two samples of margarine contained permitted preservative, and none of the samples contravened the Preservative Regulations.

Summary of Samples taken during the Year.

	<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Not Genuine.</u>		<u>Genuine.</u>	<u>Not Genuine.</u>
Milk	100	10	Boracic Ointment	2	-
Coffee	4	3	Sulphur Ointment	2	-
Pepper	2	-	Skimmed Milk Powder	1	-
Baking Powder	2	-	Malt Vinegar	1	-
Self Raising Flour	2	-	Glaubers Salts	2	-
Jam	2	-	Borax	2	-
Iodine Paint	1	-	Epsom Salts	2	-
Iodine Tincture	1	-	Seidlitz Powders	2	-
Sodium Bicarbonate	2	-	Shredded Suet with		
Butter	2	-	Rice Flour	2	-
Margarine	2	-	Castor Oil	2	-
Lard	2	-	Lemon Fruit Crush	1	-
			Grape Fruit Crush	1	-
			Orange Fruit Crush	1	-

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.

During the year 64 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination, 42 being samples of pasteurised milk, 18 loose milk and 4 of tuberculin tested milk.

Of the samples of pasteurised milk 23 were found to have less than 100,000 organisms per cc; 12 between 100,000 and 500,000; 4 between 500,000 and 1,000,000, while 3 had over 1,000,000. The high bacterial count is probably due mainly to heat resisting organisms which are not capable of producing disease or spoiling the milk, and may be accounted for by

imperfect cleansing and sterilisation of the plant by an inadequate and untrained staff. B.Coli was absent from 1/100 cc. in 14 instances and from 1/10 cc. in 6 instances.

Difficulty has been experienced with the operation and maintenance of this plant during the year owing to the call up of trained personnel and their replacement by unsatisfactory and uninterested substitute labour. The difficulties have been increased by delay in transport of milk from the collecting depots, absence of cooling at the farms, and difficulties in obtaining spare parts for repairs to the plant. I desire to express my appreciation of the assistance I have received from the Principal Regional Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in dealing with these difficulties.

14 samples of milk have been submitted for biological examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli, one of which was found to contain tubercle bacilli.

Four samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for examination by the methylene blue test, three of which did not satisfy the test.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The intimate co-ordination of the Maternity and Child Welfare Service with the School Medical Service has been continued, and the supervision of children from birth to school leaving age is continuous.

During the year 595 births were notified, 608 first visits have been paid to infants in their homes, 3466 revisits have been made to children under one year, 2136 visits to children aged 1-2 years and 3607 to children aged 2-5 years.

In addition to routine visits to infants, 232 visits were paid to young children suffering from infectious diseases, 182 to expectant mothers, 20 to boarded out children and 7 in connection with home helps.

The Welfare Centre has been open on four afternoons each week for the weighing and supervision of infants and young children. The number of new children who attended the Centre during the year was 510, equivalent to 85 per cent of the births in the district. The total number of children who attended the Centre during the year was 952. The number of attendances at the Welfare Centre made by children under one year was 7767, by children aged 1-2 years 2256, and by children aged 2-5 years 1284, and 10985 attendances were made by mothers, a daily average of 53 mothers with 38 infants and 17 toddlers.

No special clinic is held for toddlers, but they are encouraged to continue in attendance at the Welfare Centre until they are admitted to school, and 31 per cent of the attendances at the Welfare Centre were made by toddlers.

During the year 4928 children were examined by the Medical Officers, of whom 2140 were under one year, 1249 were aged 1-2 years and 1539 aged 2-5 years. Toddlers suffering from minor ailments, dental, ophthalmic or orthopaedic defects are referred to the School Clinic for treatment. During the year 68 were referred for minor ailments, 53 for toothache, 19 for ophthalmic defects and 13 for orthopaedic defects.

The distribution of anti-gas helmets has been continued at the Welfare Centre. All young babies are issued with helmets, and when the children become too big for the helmets they are

given small childrens respirators. All helmets on exchange are dismantled, thoroughly cleansed, disinfected and carefully inspected before re-assembling. This has entailed a great deal of work, but it has ensured that all helmets re-issued are thoroughly clean and efficient. In four instances the cardboard container and helmets when returned were found to be infested with bugs. Only 484 helmets were issued during the year; about 20% of the parents have failed to obtain helmets for their children.

Child Life Protection.

At the beginning of the year there were 9 children on the register of boarded out children in the care of foster parents. 6 new children were registered, five returned to their parents, two were transferred to foster parents in other districts, leaving 8 children on the register at the end of the year.

Municipal Midwifery Service.

On February 1st, 1942, Nurse Dunn commenced duty as a municipal midwife in place of Nurse Long, who had surrendered her certificate and was placed on superannuation on account of ill health.

At the commencement of the year there were 69 cases on the books of the municipal midwives, 350 new cases were booked during the year and 284 cases were delivered during the year. Thirteen cases were referred to hospital, and medical aid was summoned in 83 instances. The services of the municipal midwives were granted free of cost in 20 instances, and in one instance the patient paid 50% of the cost.

At the commencement of the year fees to the amount of £139.2.6. were outstanding in respect of the services of the midwives during 1941, while the fees due for the year were £505.4.6. £465.10.0. was collected in respect of the midwifery service, equivalent to 92% of the debits raised, the amount of £178.17.0. being outstanding at the end of the year.

Midwives Acts.

At the commencement of the year 10 midwives notified their intention to practice in the Borough.

A total of 623 cases was booked by the midwives, who attended 400 as midwives and 182 as maternity nurses.

2	midwives	attended	over 100 cases
3	"	"	between 75-100 cases
1	"	"	between 50-75 cases
2	"	"	less than 25 cases.

Medical aid was summoned in 161 instances, equivalent to 27.6% of the cases attended by the midwives.

The reasons for sending for medical help were as follows:-

Ante-Natal.

Abortion	1	
Ante-Partum Haemorrhage	3	
Toxaemia	1 5

Carried forward		5
Intra-Natal.			
Delayed labour	38		
Retained placenta	6		
Other conditions	2	46
Post-Natal.			
Ruptured perineum	55		
Post-partum haemorrhage	4		
Pyrexia	9		
Other conditions	2	70
Condition of child.			
Feebleness	1		
Prematurity	1		
Ophthalmia	30		
Pemphigus	5		
Other conditions	3	40

The number of claims submitted by medical practitioners in connection with assistance rendered to midwives in pursuance of Section 3 (1) (E) of the Midwives Act 1902 was 103. The fees paid in respect of the medical practitioner's services amounted to £154.8.6., of which £137.8.6. was debited to the patients, and £85.11.8. was collected during the year.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.

The services of Dr.W.R.Addis have been retained as consultant at the Ante-Natal Clinic, and he attends on the first Friday in each month, when special cases presenting unusual or difficult features are referred to him.

The arrangements with the Lancashire County Council by which patients from the surrounding County area attend the Ante-Natal Clinic in Eccles have been modified, the County Council paying this authority the sum of two guineas each month for the facilities provided.

100 clinics were held during the year. 412 expectant mothers attended, the total number of attendances being 1570. 64 mothers returned to the clinic for post-natal examination, making a total of 73 attendances. The number of mothers attending the post-natal clinic is very disappointing; mothers do not seem to realize the importance of attending the post-natal clinic to ensure complete restoration to health by the correction of minor defects.

Home Helps.

The provision of home helps in cases in which there is no one to look after the home while the mother is in bed has been continued, and during the year home helps were provided in 41 instances. The above figure refers only to those supplied free of cost, and does not include those who made their arrangements privately and bore the cost themselves.

There has been a marked increase in the number of mothers making use of the services of Home Helps, due to the fact that more patients are being confined in their own homes on account of the reduction in the number of hospital beds available due to the closing of Park Hospital to civilians.

Maternal Mortality.

The services of Dr.W.R.Addis have been retained by the Council under the puerperal fever and pyrexia regulations, and he is available for the assistance of medical practitioners in all cases in which a consultation is considered necessary. Arrangements have also been made for Dr.Addis to give assistance in cases of difficult labour should his services be required, but during the year no call has been made for his assistance.

All maternal deaths and still births are investigated, and this work is closely co-ordinated with the supervision of midwives. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

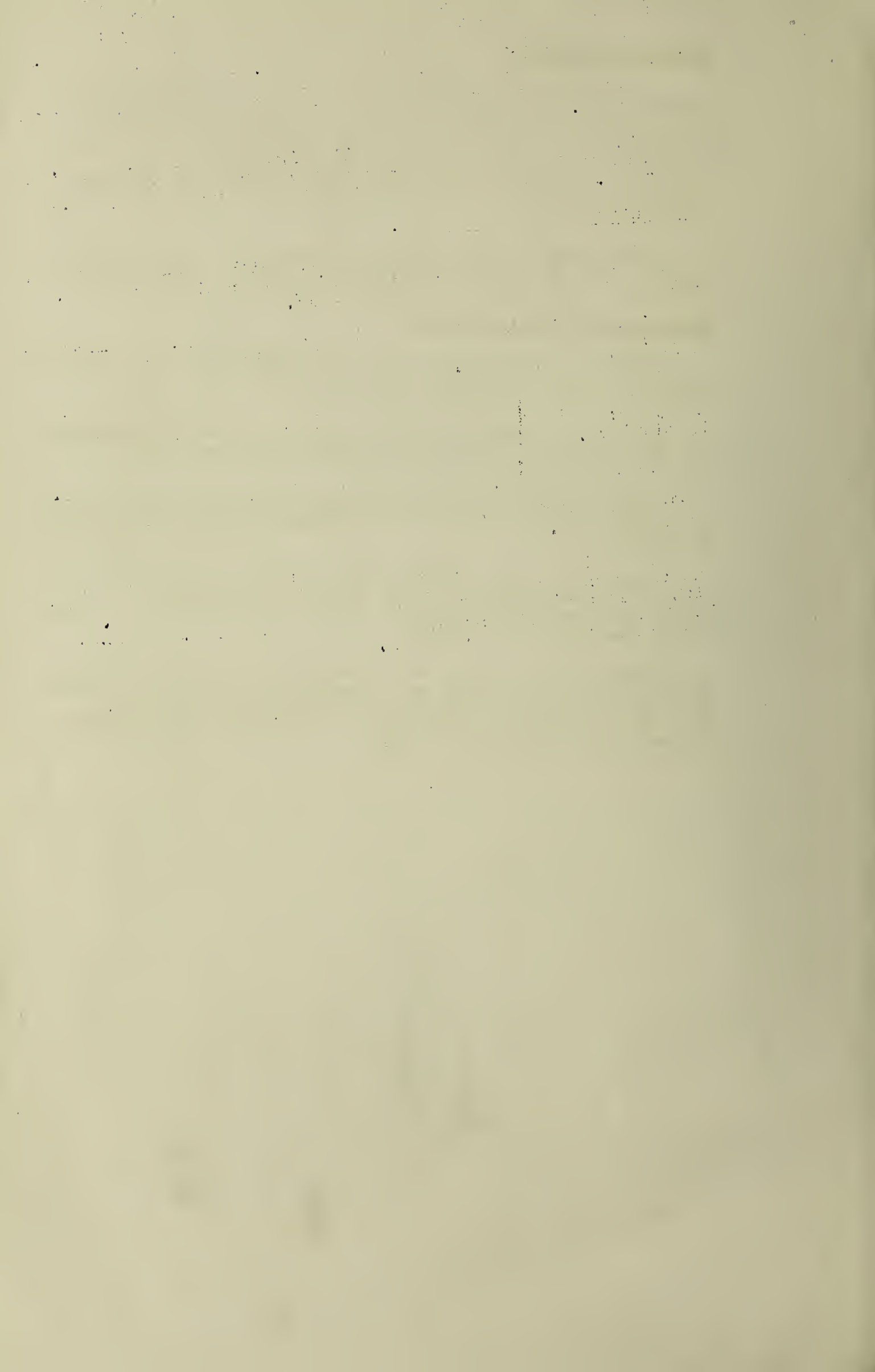
There is one private nursing home with a total of six beds registered under the Nursing Homes' Registration Act, 1927, which caters for maternity cases only.

The nursing home has been inspected periodically throughout the year and has been found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

149 maternity patients were delivered in the home during the year; 114 were delivered by doctors and 35 were delivered by midwives.

Application for exemption from the operation of the Act was made under Section 6 by the Board of Management of the Eccles and Patricroft Hospital, and the exemption was renewed by the Council.

There is one home in the Borough for unmarried mothers and their children, which has accommodation for twelve mothers with their babies, at "Ennismore" Regent Street, Eccles. The home is provided by the Manchester Diocesan Association for Preventive and Rescue Work.



REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

H O U S I N G.

Statistics.

Number of new houses erected during the year :

- (a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) -
 - (i) By the Local Authority -
 - (ii) By other Local Authorities -
 - (iii) By other bodies and persons -
- (b) With STATE ASSISTANCE under the Housing Acts:
 - (i) By the Local Authority -
 - (ii) By other bodies or persons -

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :

- (i) (a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts) 123
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 123
- (ii) (a) Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. -
- (b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose -
- (iii) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. -
- (iv) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 123

2. Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers. 68

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.
A.- Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (i) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. 8
- (ii) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By Owners 7
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

Apart from essential repairs to houses, very little work is carried out owing to the shortage of labour and materials.

The total number of houses and flats in the Borough is 12,636.

The following table gives the number of houses built and the number demolished for the years 1923 to 1942 inclusive :-

Year.	Houses built by Local Authority.	Houses built by private enterprise.	Houses demolished.
1923	277	24	4
1924	-	50	-
5	104	15	12
6	72	36	15
7	19	37	24
8	78	46	69
9	137	16	34
1930	26	3	29
1	21	68	40
2	-	69	14
3	12	55	20
4	112	85	68
5	1	234	46
6	82	251	76
7	-	202	28
8	2	294	10
9	158	224	34
1940	-	-	49
1	-	-	62
2	-	-	-
TOTALS:	1101	1709	631

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

The number and variety of Sanitary Conveniences in use at the end of the year were as follows :-

Fresh-water flushed closets	15,698
Waste-water flushed closets	55
Fresh-water flushed latrines	83
Pail closets	43
Ashbins	13,588
Baths	8,301

In 14 instances water closets were found to be defective, and in 36 instances various defects were found in connection with fittings.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Manchester Corporation gave a continuous and adequate supply of water during the year. There was no occasion for restriction in its use by house-holders.

134 complaints of waste of water due to burst pipes and defective fittings were made to the Waterworks Department.

INSPECTIONS.

The number of premises visited during the year was 1064, the number of nuisances or defects discovered 1512, and the number abated 751.

There were 846 informal notices served, and 39 statutory notices.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Number of houses found to be infested :-

(a) Council houses	10
(b) Other houses	36

In 23 cases the Local Authority carried out disinfection by spraying with Zaldecide, and in 21 cases a Manchester firm of Fumigators carried out disinfection by Hydrogen Cyanide. In two cases the owners carried out the work of disinfection.

DIRTY HOUSES AND YARDS.

Particular attention has been paid to dirty houses and yards, &c. during the year, and 25 such cases were dealt with, also 50 cases of verminous houses.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The only premises under this heading in the Borough are 34 fish frying premises, two tripe boilers, and four rag and bone dealers.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS.

There are six such places of entertainment in the Borough. These were inspected during the year, and no cause for complaint was found.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one registered common lodging house in the Borough, and this has accommodation for 66 males only. It is under the personal supervision of the proprietor and is well managed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are three cowkeepers registered in the Borough, and the average number of cows kept was 46.

Five licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, one a licence to pasteurise milk, one a dealer's licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested milk, three supplementary licences, one being for Tuberculin tested milk and two for pasteurised milk.

STABLES AND PIGGERIES.

There are 26 stable premises and 23 premises where pigs are kept. The average number of pigs kept was 1,000.

The number of inspections made in connection with Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops was 210.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Food surrendered :-

Luncheon Meat, Chopped Ham, &c.	662 lbs.
Meat Roll	18 lbs.
Preserves	20 lbs.
Onions	1090 lbs.
Eggs	72
Stewed Steak	73 tins.
Rabbit	9 tins.
Vegetable Salads	115 tins.
Soups	14 tins.
Peas	34 tins.
Tomatoes	44 tins.
Beans	64 tins.
Salmon	16 tins.
Sardines & Pilchards	49 tins.
Fruits (various)	106 tins.
Tins of Milk.	261

SHOPS ACTS.

There are 815 shops of various kinds on the Register.

Weekly half-holiday Orders have been made in connection with Butchers Shops, Boot and Shoe Retailers and Barbers & Hairdressers.

MORTUARY.

The mortuary was used on forty-one occasions for the reception of bodies. Of these :-

23	had died from natural causes
10	from accidents
5	from drowning
3	from suicide.

CANAL BOATS.

There were no inspections of Canal Boats during the year. The boats delivering coal to the Wharfs here are day-boats and are not occupied by any person. The other traffic on the Canal consists of those boats passing through the district without stopping.

INSPECTIONS.

Bakehouses	30
Food Preparing Establishments	65
Fish Friers	17
Milkshops	193
Cowsheds	16
Butchers premises	42
Mineral water works	2
Marine Store Dealers	16
Stables and Piggeries	89
Factories	36
Out-workers Premises	18
Common Lodging Houses	10
Schools, Sanitary Conveniences.	236
Theatres and Cinemas	8
Tests applied to drains	53
Drains opened up	1
District Inspection of houses.	957
Re-inspection of nuisances, etc.	1081
Visits in cases of Infectious Disease	337
Visits re Shops Acts	37
Owners Seen	102
Visits re suitability of tenants	14
for Corporation houses.	

REFUSE COLLECTION.

During the year the work of the House Refuse Collection Department has been impeded owing to the shortage of labour and the special collection of Salvage Materials for War purposes, therefore the regular weekly collection of house refuse has not been possible, the period between emptying often being as long as three weeks.

The number of loads of refuse and salvage removed to the Salvage Works was 8.647, the total weight being 14,282 tons.

The Department supplied 402 dustbins and dustbin lids at the cost of the owners.

SALVAGE.

During the year there were two waste paper contests, one for the month of January and one for the three months May, June and July; the following amounts were collected during the above periods:

	T.	C.	Q.
January	97	8	2
May to July	118	0	0

A Book Week was held from September 28th to October 3rd, and three shops were loaned by the owners to be used as collecting depots:-

110 Church Street.
255 Monton Road
540 Liverpool Road.

The weight of books collected during the week was 18½ cwts.

The types and weights of materials salvaged during the year are given below. The figures have been supplied by the Manager of the Sewage Farm and Salvage Works:-

	T.	C.	Q.
Paper	353	15	2
Tins	260	6	1
Ferrous Scrap	33	2	1
Non-ferrous scrap	3	0	2
Textiles	60	0	1
Bottles	8	16	2
Broken Glass	54	14	2
Bones	4	11	1
Rubber	10	2	0
	788	9	0

KITCHEN WASTE.

In September a scheme was accepted by the Public Health Committee for the collection of Kitchen Waste in the Borough. Instructions were given for 250 communal bins to be ordered and placed in convenient positions throughout the district for the reception of Kitchen Waste. The first 100 bins were delivered and placed in convenient positions in the Peel Green and Winton districts on December 4th, the first collection being made on December 7th.

The amount collected during December was 9 tons 5 cwts. 1 qt. This was sold to pig-keepers in the Borough at 30/- per ton plus 5/- per ton for delivery, making a total income of £16.4.2.

The contents of these bins are being interfered with by some unauthorised persons, and it is hoped that the public will assist the Committee by notifying the Department as soon as possible when they see any unauthorised person emptying any of the bins.

G. V. HULSE.

...Senior Sanitary Inspector.